scarlet-covered scaffold in the middle of the Campo. The Dodicini were excluded from the administration, the central magistracy now consisting of twelve of the t(People of the Greater Number " and three Noveschi. Among the citizens condemned to pecuniary penalties was Nanni di Ser Vanni Savini, " famous among those who were devoted to the world and full of the prudence of the flesh," as Fra Raimondo says of him, who was sentenced to pay a fine of five hundred florins ; a little later, we shall find him among Catherine's disciples.[1]

Almost immediately after leaving the seclusion of her fathers house, we find Catherine in touch with the politics of her native city, and with the great questions that were agitating the whole Church. Not only are the spears and swords of contending factions lowered before her as she passes along the streets of Siena, but the princes and potentates of Italy seem to realize instantly that a new spiritual power has arisen in the land, and from Avignon the Pope himself would fain know the secrets that Christ had hidden from His vicar to reveal to the simple maiden whom He had made His bride.

This was in part due to the effect produced upon Gregory's mind by the revelations of Birgitta. From the beginning of his pontificate, the Swedish princess had exhorted the new Pope to repair the scandal caused by the defection of his predecessor. In a vision she heard the voice of the Blessed Virgin, promising that, if Gregory will restore the papal chair to Rome and reform the Church, her prayers will flood his soul with spiritual joy from her divine Son ; if not, he will assuredly feel the rod of Christ's indignation ; his life will be cut short, and he will be summoned to the judgment of God. She wrote to bid the Pope come to Italy by the beginning of the following April (apparently of 1372) at the latest, if he would still have the Blessed Virgin as a mother and escape the judgments of God. There will be no peace in France until the people appease God by some great works of humility and piety ; as for the expedition which the Pope is organizing to redeem the sepulchre of Christ with mercenary

[1] *Cronica Sanese,* col. 228. Cf. *Legenda,* II. vii. 17 (§ 235).